

For Immediate Release
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Media Availability

Wilson Bridge Project Eagle Rescuers Available for Interviews and to Show Eagle Nest Where Surviving Male is Attempting to Protect Eggs that Are Due to Hatch Any Day

DRAMATIC VIDEO OF EAGLE RESCUE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON DVD TODAY

Oxon Hill, MD – Wilson Bridge Project environmental specialists rescued a bald eagle who was badly injured in a battle with another bald eagle Wednesday afternoon. Named "Martha" by the Wilson Bridge Project, the injured eagle is one of two eagles who nest next to the project and whose protection from construction impacts is part of the project's environmental program.

A ferocious turf-battle between Martha and the interloping eagle ensued Wednesday afternoon, which resulted in serious injuries to Martha. After the other eagle downed Martha, it continued to pummel her until Wilson Bridge Project construction workers approached and yelled loudly, scaring away the invading eagle.

Led by project environmental specialist Stephanie Spears, a four—person team then went about the dangerous job of rescuing Martha, who otherwise would die either from her injuries or further attacks from other wild animals in the area.

Carefully surrounding the badly injured raptor, the team closed in. Spears grabbed the eagle by her talons, which are used by the bird to protect itself. Believing she was being attacked, Martha struggled violently, hitting the rescuers with her wings and thrashing with her talons.

Once secured in a plastic recycling barrel, perforated with breathing holes, Spears drove Martha to the Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research center in Newark, Delaware, where her condition is being addressed. Her survival is uncertain at this time.

Back at the nest, Martha's mate, George, is now left with the job of hatching out eggs that are due to open at any time. The project is attempting to assist George by leaving fish on the ground nearby the nest, so that he does not have to hunt and can protect the next. In the past several years, George and Martha have successfully hatched 15 eagles, while nesting in the immediate proximity of the Wilson Bridge Project. Their current nest is on the Maryland shore, immediately south of the bridge abutment.

Below are close-up photographs taken by Spears during her years of safeguarding the eagles.. High-resolution versions of these and other shots are available.



Photo Credit: Stephanie Spears, Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project

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